Steven Kotz 5986 Chabolyn Terrace Oakland CA 94618

Jun 17th 2019

Via ECFS Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1

Dear FCC,

I switched to Sonic's fiber network because my communications services [landline from AT&T and internet from Comcast] were unreliable and expensive. I now get all the services I want more reliably, at much greater speed, and for less than half the total price--in fact, for considerably less than what I was paying Comcast alone. Oh, not coincidentally, trying to get a customer rep on the line at either AT&T or Comcast is [1] a nightmare, and [2] seldom fixes the problem. E.g., my AT&T landline service goes out whenever it rains.

Of course, communications giants like AT&T and Comcast can't stand the heat. So, rather than improve their equipment or lower their prices, they use regulators to stamp out competition.

Well, we jumped through a gazillion hoops in order to break up the original AT&T, now reassembled into an even greater monster dedicated to thriving by restricting markets and raising prices in every way it can. Comcast and Verizon follow the same strategy, because it works. It's called regulatory capture.

Well, here's an idea: How about actually protecting consumers by ensuring that consumers can choose among service providers? Like, that's what the FCC is supposed to do.

Steven Kotz